

Clean Version of Pending Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(3)

an ~~Sub~~ 1. A rail system for securing a panel having opposing major surfaces, the rail system comprising:

a housing having at least one mating surface;

a pair of mating clamp members shaped and structured to clamp onto the panel such that the pair of clamp members respectively constrain opposing major surfaces of the panel, with at least one clamp member of the pair of clamp members having a mating surface located to be in contact with the at least one mating surface of the housing; and

actuation hardware structured to drive pair of the clamp members and the housing to move relative to each other in a driven direction;

wherein at least one of the mating surface of the housing and the mating surface of the clamp member is inclined relative to the driven direction so that at least a portion of at least one clamp member of the pair of clamp members will move in a clamping direction, which is different than the driven direction, when the clamp member is driven in the driven direction by the actuation hardware; and

wherein clamping forces, caused by the movement of the clamp member in the clamping direction, are sufficient to secure the panel.

2. The rail system of claim 1 wherein the housing defines an accessory channel space.

3. The rail system of claim 1 wherein the housing is unitary.

4. The rail system of claim 1 wherein the actuation hardware comprises:

a screw; and

a nut.

5. A rail system for releasably securing a pane having at least one major surface defining a first plane, the rail system comprising:

an elongated housing comprising:

a first inclined surface oriented to be generally inclined with respect to the first plane; and

a second inclined surface oriented to be generally inclined with respect to the first plane;

a first clamp member comprising:

an inclined surface located adjacent to the first inclined surface of the housing and oriented to be approximately parallel to the first inclined surface of the housing; and

a pane clamping surface;

a second clamp member comprising:

an inclined surface located adjacent to the second inclined surface of the housing and oriented to be approximately parallel to the second inclined surface of the housing; and

a pane clamping surface;

a screw; and

a nut threadably engaged with the screw and located to drive the first and second clamp members in a direction along the first plane in order to generate sufficient opposing clamping

forces between the first clamp member and the second clamp member such that a pane can be secured between the pane clamping surface of the first clamp member and the pane clamping surface of the second clamping member.

6. The rail system of claim 5 wherein the housing comprises:

a first channel wall; and

a second channel wall, the first and second channel walls being located to define an accessory channel space.

7. The rail system of claim 6 wherein the screw is located so that it can be accessed through the accessory channel space sufficiently to drive the screw to rotate.

8. A rail system for securing a panel, the rail system comprising:

a housing having a mating surface, with the housing defining an accessory channel space;
at least one clamp member shaped and structured to clamp onto the panel, the at least one clamp member each having a mating surface located to be in contact with the mating surface of the housing;

actuation hardware structured to drive the at least one clamp member and the housing to move relative to each other in a driven direction; and

at least one of the following types of hardware: locking hardware for locking and unlocking the door, pivots and hydraulic closure related hardware, with the at least one type of hardware being located at least substantially in the accessory channel space;

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wherein at least one of the mating surface of the housing and the mating surface of the clamp member is inclined relative to the driven direction so that at least a portion of the clamp member will move in a clamping direction, which is different than the driven direction, when the clamp member is driven in the driven direction by the actuation hardware; and

wherein clamping forces, caused by the movement of the clamp member in the clamping direction, are sufficient to secure the panel.

Abstract
11. The rail system of claim 5, further comprising:

a first pad located adjacent to the pane clamping surface of the first clamp member; and
a second pad located adjacent to the pane clamping surface of the second clamp member.

12. The rail system of claim 11 wherein the first and second inclined surfaces of the housing are each inclined between 25 degrees and 35 degrees from the first plane.

13. The rail system of claim 5 wherein:

the inclined surface of the first clamp member is oriented at an inclination within 2 degrees of the inclination of the first inclined surface of the housing; and

the inclined surface of the second clamp member is oriented at an inclination within 2 degrees of the inclination of the second inclined surface of the housing.

14. The rail system of claim 13 wherein:

the inclination of the inclined surface of the first clamp member from the first plane is approximately 1 degree greater than the inclination of the first inclined surface of the housing from the first plane; and

the inclination of the inclined surface of the second clamp member from the first plane is approximately 1 degree greater than the inclination of the second inclined surface of the housing from the first plane.

15. The rail system of claim 5 wherein the inclination of the first inclined surface of the housing with respect to the first plane is approximately equal to the inclination of the second inclined surface of the housing with respect to the first plane.

16. The rail system of claim 5 wherein the housing is comprised of aluminum.

17. The rail system of claim 16 wherein the housing is comprised of aluminum having an anodized finish.

18. The rail system of claim 5 wherein the screw is oriented substantially parallel to the first plane.

21. A rail system for securing a panel, the rail system comprising:

a housing;

at least one clamp member shaped and structured to clamp onto the panel;

at least one screw; and

an elongated nut strip, formed as a separate piece from the at least one clamp member and threadably engaged with the at least one screw, with the nut strip being structured and located to actuate the at least one clamp member so that at least a portion of the at least one clamp member moves in a clamping direction, relative to the housing, AND so that clamping forces, caused by the movement of the clamp member in the clamping direction, are sufficient to secure a pane.

22. The rail system of claim 21 wherein:

the at least one clamp member comprises a first clamp member;

the at least one clamp member comprises a second clamp member; and

a portion of the nut strip is located adjacent to the first clamp member, and a portion of the nut strip is located adjacent to the second clamp member.

23. A rail system for securing a panel having opposing major surfaces, the rail system comprising:

a housing having a pair of mating surfaces;

a pair of mating clamp members shaped and structured to clamp onto the panel such that the pair of clamp members respectively constrain opposing major surfaces of the panel, with each clamp member of the pair of clamp members having a mating surface located to respectively be in contact with the pair of mating surfaces of the housing; and

actuation hardware structured to actuate the clamp members so that at least a portion each clamp member of the pair of clamp members moves to clamp the panel therebetween.

Please cancel claims 19 and 20.

Please add claims 21-23:

21. (New) A rail system for securing a panel, the rail system comprising:

a housing;

at least one clamp member shaped and structured to clamp onto the panel;

at least one screw; and

an elongated nut strip, formed as a separate piece from the at least one clamp member and threadably engaged with the at least one screw, with the nut strip being structured and located to actuate the at least one clamp member so that at least a portion of the at least one clamp member moves in a clamping direction, relative to the housing, and so that clamping forces, caused by the movement of the clamp member in the clamping direction, are sufficient to secure a pane.

22. (New) The rail system of claim 21 wherein:

the at least one clamp member comprises a first clamp member;

the at least one clamp member comprises a second clamp member; and

a portion of the nut strip is located adjacent to the first clamp member, and a portion of the nut strip is located adjacent to the second clamp member.

23. (New) A rail system for securing a panel having opposing major surfaces, the rail system comprising:

a housing having a pair of mating surfaces;

a pair of mating clamp members shaped and structured to clamp onto the panel such that the pair of clamp members respectively constrain opposing major surfaces of the panel, with each clamp member of the pair of clamp members having a mating surface located to respectively be in contact with the pair of mating surfaces of the housing; and

actuation hardware structured to actuate the clamp members so that at least a portion each clamp member of the pair of clamp members moves to clamp the panel therebetween.